



THS student wins
app contest

> Page 4

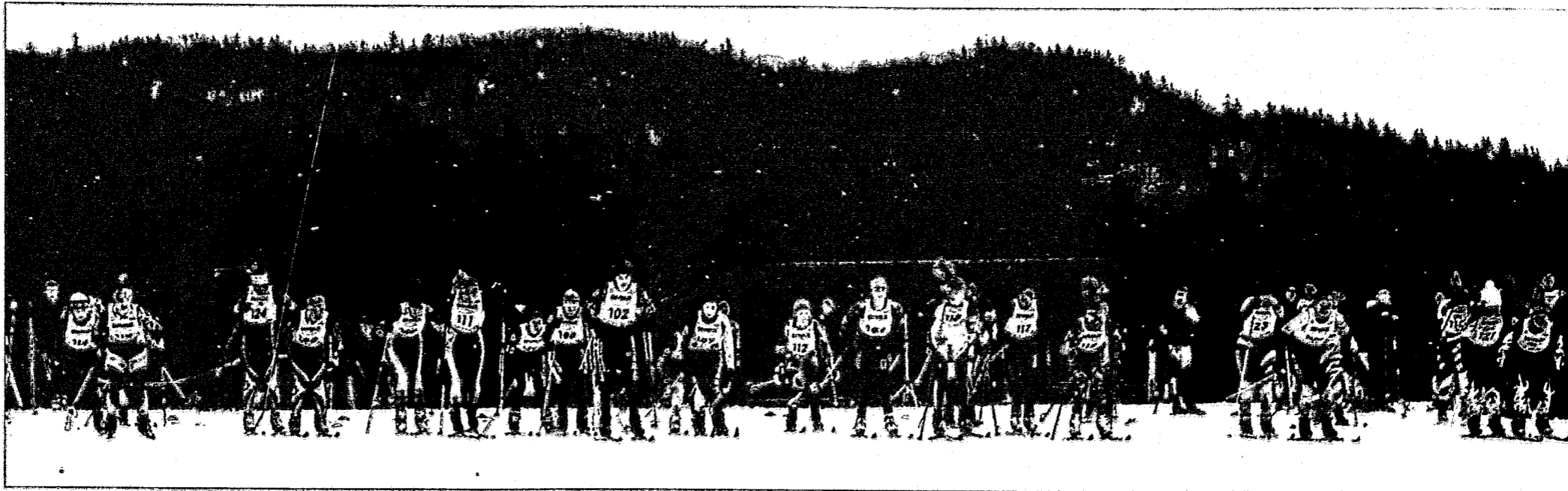
The Bethel Citizen

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Thursday, January 7, 2016

90¢ a Copy

Serving Bethel and neighboring communities in the mountains of western Maine



SNOW ARRIVED JUST IN TIME LAST WEEK to allow Telstar and the Bethel Outing Club to prepare the cross country ski trails for the annual Telstar Relays races. Here, skiers start out on the baseball field on the first leg of a four-leg race. At right center, in a blue top and multi-colored suit and with pony tail flying, is THS' Carla Boyle-Wight. In a blue-and-gold Gould suit farthest to the left is Livy Clarke of Bethel. More than a dozen schools were represented in the competition. More photos, Page 6.

A. Aloisio

What is the Portland oil pipeline worth to Bethel area towns?

By ALISON ALOISIO

The town of Gilead last summer granted the Portland-Montreal Pipe Line a tax rebate of nearly \$23,000. That was after PMPL argued its declining income from the oil pipeline should be figured into its value, according to town officials.

Reports in recent years have indicated that as Canadian companies have made changes to pipelines in that country to bring more western Canadian oil east, the demand to transport oil to Montreal refineries from Portland has diminished. Some oil

industry officials have speculated there is a possibility the 236-mile long pipeline might be shut down, according to published reports.

If that happened, what would it mean for future tax revenue from the pipeline for Bethel area towns through which oil flows?

John O'Donnell of O'Donnell Associates, Gilead's assessing agent, said he thinks it could be "a threat" because "income is a significant consideration in valuation for these types of properties."

He said Gilead's approach is to set valuation

largely on an income basis for commercial property such as the pipeline's, rather than on cost of the personal property and other assets. During a time of declining revenue, a company would likely point to that income as a reason to drop the value, he said.

And were the property to be sold, he said, "prospective buyers would look at the income stream."

O'Donnell said that PMPL representatives argued to Gilead beginning two years ago that the pipeline's valuation there should consider income,

as well as replacement cost, and be close to the value recently established by a tax appeal in New Hampshire. O'Donnell said that over the last few years the pipeline's income had dropped significantly and PMPL felt it should have an impact on tax value.

In granting the abatement, Gilead reduced the pipeline's value from \$6.5 million to \$4 million, O'Donnell said. As a result of the drop, Gilead will now get about \$45,000 a year in taxes from the pipeline, in

See PIPELINE, Page 3

Bethel Comprehensive Plan could go away

By ALISON ALOISIO

On Monday Bethel's Comprehensive Plan Committee heard residents air views on how the current plan has killed business, how the town has its own built-in zoning by virtue of economics, and that the only thing "broken" in Bethel are roadblocks to business growth that should be removed.

The committee also heard opinions that while there may no longer be a real need for a Comprehensive Plan, the town does need some sort of panel to lay out a road map on how to encourage economic growth, keep young people in the area, and protect the things the town values.

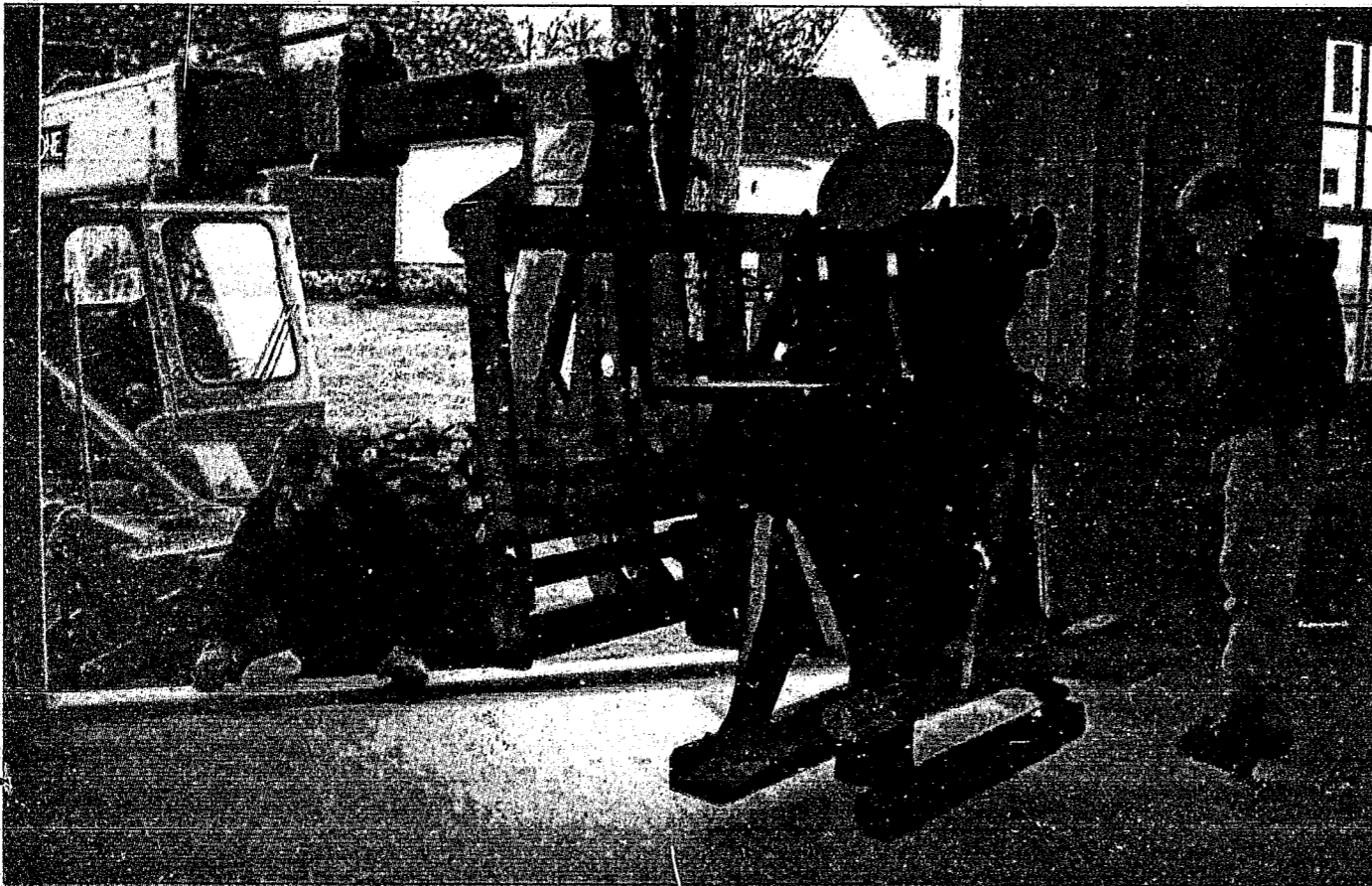
And at the end of the evening, the committee voted to recommend Bethel do away with a Comprehensive

sive Plan, providing the town finds a way to turn the one thing that currently mandates it have a plan - the sewer impact fee ordinance - into something else.

The committee had been in a stalemate for two years on how to proceed on crafting a new plan to update the 1998 one. The plan is required by law solely because of the sewer system development charge (SSDC) ordinance, which requires a sewer hookup fee for new development. Some members wanted to do a "red-line" update of the plan, while others felt a more thorough approach was needed.

So they met Monday with planner John Maloney of the Androscoggin Valley Council of Governments,

See PLAN, Page 3



HOLDING THE PRESS-This "job press" that was used in decades past at the Bethel Citizen recently moved to its new home at the Bethel Historical Society's Charles R. Huntoon Center for Archives, Library and Museum Collections. For the past 27 years the press had been in the custody of Danna Brown Nickerson, whose family owned and operated the Citizen for many years. "We moved the press from the Citizen office to our house on Paradise Road on Dec. 3, 1988, and when we moved to Kilborn Street in 1997, it came with us, so it's quite well-traveled," said Nickerson. "It was the last press left, after all the others had been taken away, and was destined to go for scrap." Manufactured in 1886 by the Boston Printing Press and Machinery Co., the "Perfect Prouty Press" was used for such printing jobs as posters, newsletters, notices and menus. "The Bethel Inn had new menus printed daily for luncheon and dinner. I think they were printed from at least the '40s through the early '70s," said Nickerson. "The press was in the Citizen office as long as I can remember." She said her aunt, Musa Brown, believes it had always been in the Citizen office, "so it could very well go back to the days of the Bethel News, which appeared in 1895," said Nickerson. It was one of three job presses at the office. They operated by means of a foot treadle, and paper was printed with lead type set letter by letter. Here, Nickerson's husband, George, watches as a forklift from the D. A. Wilson Co. lifts the press into the barn. At left is Doug Wilson.

Danna Nickerson

'Polite Puppy' trainer focuses on the humans

By ALISON ALOISIO

Go to the Bethel Foodliner on a Saturday morning, and you might encounter a young canine "greeter" just outside the door.

The pup is not just one of the occasional dogs tethered to a sign while its human goes inside to shop. This one is accompanied by a woman intent on the quality of each greeting.

She is India Baker of Bethel, a horse trainer turned dog trainer, and the instructor for the upcoming "Polite Puppy" class offered by SAD 44 Adult Education.

"I try to do 100 'meet and greets,'" said Baker of her stints on Main Street.

Baker said the most common reason people come to her for dog training is to achieve "polite greetings" when visitors come to their home, rather than a "jumping up" encounter.

While Baker has been involved in horse training for 40 years (she earned the British Horse Society certification when she lived in England), she has also had dogs as pets for years, she said.

"Australian shepherds - I always had them," she said. They are athlet-

ic, beautiful, and smart. My family has always had herding-type dogs."

An active working breed, the dogs need a job, "or they'll find their own," Baker said. "As I got more involved in training them, I got better at it."

But after getting a puppy a couple of years ago who was particularly challenging, Baker decided she herself could use some formal training. So she enrolled in an online Karen Pryor Academy course, which utilizes communication by video to teach and evaluate.

Training dogs under the system is based on the use of clickers, which make that sound to let a dog know he has followed a command correctly.

See PUPPY, Page 2

Happy Hour - \$2 drafts & 1/2 price appetizers
Every day from 4pm - 6pm

The Millbrook Tavern & Grille
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The Ski Museum
Vintage Fashion Show
scheduled for Jan. 9th
at The Bethel Inn
has been CANCELLED.

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Letters

SUPPORT RELAY FOR LIFE

To the Editor:

I am writing this letter to invite the Bethel community to the kickoff reception for the Oxford Hills Relay for Life. The reception will be held at Trinity Lutheran Church, 34 Buckfield Road, South Paris at 6 p.m. on Jan. 11. Relay for Life is a family friendly team walkathon to raise money for the American Cancer Society. This year's Oxford Hills Relay for Life will be held on June 18 at the Oxford Fairgrounds from 11 a.m. to 11 p.m.

Some people ask why I am so devoted to Relay for Life. I once had the privilege of hearing a cancer research scientist speak in Chicago. She said that the American Cancer society gets many proposals for ideas of possible cures to fight cancer. But they can only afford to fund a very small percentage of the ideas that they deem very promising. What spurs my interest in fundraising is realizing that an idea for a cure for a debilitating form of cancer might be out there and it might go undeveloped because of a lack of funding. Money is the only hope we have to fight this terrible disease. It takes years to develop and test an idea for a cancer cure and it can be so, so expensive. Take Gleevec, for example, the miracle drug that changed the 5 year survival rate for childhood leukemia from 30 percent to 89 percent. It was over 50 years in the making. Imagine the cost involved in supporting a team of research scientists and their lab for that amount of time! And then, sometimes they hit a snag and find a flaw and all is for naught.

There are a few of us from the Bethel area who have started a team and we would love to see more teams from this area. It's never too early to start a team and do some team fundraising. More information about this event can be found at www.relayforlife.org/oxford-hillsme. If you are a business owner and would like to consider a sponsorship please contact Lisa Dunham (lisa.dunham@cancer.org) or Ronnie Yourell (veronica.yourell@gmail.com). All are welcome to attend the Relay kickoff reception at Trinity Lutheran Church, 34 Buckfield Road, South Paris at 6 p.m. on Jan. 11 to find out more information.

Loraine Duclos
Greenwood

REMEMBERING INA GROVER

To the Editor:

The recent passing of Ina Grover brings to mind numerous images of devoted wife, mother, grandmother and good friend. She also was a great cook, skilled homemaker, and proficient outdoorswoman, who served her community, church and Grange well during her long life. In short, she was every bit what one speaker at her service declared, "a tiny woman with a big heart."

I knew her best through the Grange as we both served as treasurer of our respective Granges, she at Pleasant Valley in West Bethel (nineteen years) and me at Alder River (thirty-eight years and counting) in East Bethel. For a time, we had a joint installation where she and I marched together to be installed annually. Because of that connection, whenever we met at the grocery store, we often addressed each other with a smile as we would at a Grange meeting with "Worthy Treasurer."

as, perhaps, most "famous" for her yeast rolls, which were always so good and eagerly sought by her numerous "fans" at every church supper. I hope she has passed this "gift" on to someone in her family or in her circle of friends, so we can continue to fondly recall her at future West Bethel gatherings.

Stan Howe
Bethel

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

The Citizen welcomes letters to the editor. We hope our readers will regard the newspaper as a public forum for discussing any topic they believe to be of interest to the community.

Insofar as possible, we attempt to publish letters without alteration, but we do reserve the right to edit for length, libel, taste and readability. Letters should be limited to 400 words, but that limit will be waived when the situation warrants.

When writing, please include your full name, signature, address and telephone number (so that we may verify authorship).

The deadline for letters to the editor is 4:30 p.m. Monday. Letters submitted after that deadline will be considered for publication when circumstances permit.

Send your letters to: Editor, Bethel Citizen, PO Box 109, Bethel, ME 04217-0109. Fax: 824-2426. E-mail: news@bethelcitizen.com.

The Bethel Citizen

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Woodstock selectmen trim General Assistance budget

By MATTHEW DAIGLE
Sun Media

The Woodstock Board of Selectmen voted 2-1 Tuesday to cut the General Assistance budget from \$6,000 to \$5,000 for 2016-17. Chairman Ron Deegan suggested the cut during a review of the proposed spending plan.

"A cut of \$1,000 won't make much of a difference with the budget," Town Manager Vern Maxfield said.

"To me, it would," Deegan said. "I'm fighting for every penny that I can with the budget."

He said that over the past few years, the General Assistance account has only used \$3,000 of the \$6,000 voters approved.

"If we cut \$1,000 from it, that leaves a \$2,000 buffer zone, in case we spend

more next year," he said. Selectman Mike Nadeau sided with Maxfield, saying, "If it's not broke, don't fix it."

After Deegan called for a vote, he and Stephen Bies voted in favor of the amendment, while Nadeau voted against it.

The board also discussed the town's property maintenance budget for the 2016-17 fiscal year.

Maxfield said the \$17,000 proposed is "what we've been budgeting for years."

"We have two roofs that need work: the library roof and the Town Office roof—but the library roof is worse," Maxfield said.

"If we decide to do the library roof this year, it will probably take everything in that budget, which won't leave anything for the Town Office roof."

Deegan asked if the Town

Office roof could wait another year.

"Yes, it's starting to rust a little bit, and needs to be painted, but it can wait another year," Maxfield said.

"The way I see it, roofs are important," Deegan said. "They're big assets for buildings. If you don't maintain your big assets, you're in trouble. If you're going to cut something, don't make it a roof."

Bies asked Maxfield how much it would cost to fix the library roof.

"Well, in the early spring of last year, we were told \$27,000 for a metal roof, but I'm not sure if that's still the case," Maxfield said.

Nadeau suggested that Maxfield get some estimates on replacing the library roof by the board's Jan. 19 meeting.

Puppy

Continued from page 1

Before she enrolled in the clicker-based class, "I had only seen [the technique] done badly," Baker said. Done the right way, she said, "with pups it's like a magic wand."

The process is built on a foundation of finding what motivates a dog or whatever animal is being trained, and using it.

Baker said her horse background is helpful in dog training. "I am used to training people with their animals," she said.

In a class of dogs and peo-

ple, Baker strives "to set up the dog for learning. My goal, whether it's in a private lesson or group, is in five or six lessons to teach people how to train their dog, to give them the tools they need," she said.

The upcoming "Polite Puppy/Young Dog Training" adult education class is 6 weeks long and begins on Jan. 13, at the Greenwood Town Hall at 6 p.m.

It is open to puppies and young dogs from 12 weeks up to 1 year old. They will learn positive methods to

politely greet people and other dogs, loose leash walking, sit, down, stay and some tricks.

Baker said the class is not for reactive dogs, because that type of setting can overwhelm them. Such dogs need a different class structure for training, she said.

For more information on Baker's class and her background go to www.moxiedogtraining.com or call the Adult Education office at 824-2136 ext. 1340.



India Baker works with one of her Australian shepherd dogs.

Submitted photo

Notes from the State House

By Rep. Fran Head

With the second regular legislative session beginning this week, I wanted to make sure the readers of the Bethel Citizen know that there is a very important public hearing Monday, Jan. 11 regarding a bill to exempt Maine from the federal mandated "Common Core" standards. My general feeling regarding Common Core is that education standards, which drive curriculum, should be determined as locally as possible.

Consider who your favorite teacher was, and what made that connection so memorable years later. I bet that teacher challenged you to try something new and to take pride in your school work. Educators are charged with raising the aspirations of our next generation of Mainers, and to ensure they have the skills they need to succeed. How can this goal be standardized?

No two children are alike; they come to school with different backgrounds and challenges. Bureaucrats in Washington D.C. don't have a clue what our children and grandchildren need to know in order to find work, especially in rural Maine. All too often our highest achieving children aren't pushed ahead due in large part to the mandated Common Core standards. This is exactly why the \$4 billion "Race to the Top" has become more of a "Race to the Middle." This one size fits all curriculum may be good enough for the U.S. Dept. of Education, but make no mistake; this approach is by no means good enough for Maine students. We can do better, and it starts by exempting our schools from Common Core. That is why I'm asking for your help.

I'll be providing testimony in support of LD 1492, An Act To Amend the Laws Governing Education Standards in Maine, sponsored by Rep. Will Tuell of East Machias. If you have strong feelings about Common Core, and would like to see Maine exempted from this federal mandate, I urge you to attend the Education and Cultural Affairs Committee public hearing on Monday at 1 p.m., Cross Building, Room 202 in Augusta. Alternatively, you can email your testimony for LD 1492 to the committee clerk at Jayne.Deneen@Legislature.Maine.Gov.

In the months ahead, please don't hesitate to contact me if you have questions about upcoming legislation or need help with state agencies. It is through your input that I will best be able to represent the extraordinary people who call western Maine "home."

Our Back Pages

Danna Brown Nickerson

10 years ago: The Budweiser Clydesdales team was in Bethel for a five-day visit.

The Woodstock Fire Department was raising \$5,000 to buy an ice rescue sled.

Deaths: Jeffrey A. Paul, M. Clayton Sweatt, Dorothy A. Sheffield, Sheldon F. Jordan, Dorothy McPherson.

20 years ago: The Matterhorn Restaurant, owned by Roger and Patricia Beaudoin, had recently opened at the corner of Route 26 and Cross Street.

Births: Samantha Jane Mallory, Allison Jane Kelly.

Deaths: Violet M. Dougherty, Avis Chrystelle Dooen, Inez May Ring.

30 years ago: Two snowstorms hit the area in quick succession leaving a total of 20 inches of new snow.

Deaths: Marjorie L. Cushing, Philip S. Chapman, Jr., Irving F. Martin, Harriet M. Forbes, Elizabeth D. Tebbets.

40 years ago: A public reception was held honoring interim town manager Harold Bean and incoming town manager Norman Ness, Jr.

Telstar varsity skiers opened their season, in the midst of a blinding snow storm, with a 195.91 to 193.91 win over Class "A" rival Mt. Blue High School at Farmington.

Birth: Angela Joy Cole.

Death: Chester J. Cole.

50 years ago: The bell was removed from the steeple of the Gilead Congregational Church by Harold and Winfield Rolfe, crated & sent to New York for shipment to the Mt. Silanda Mission in Africa.

Birth: Denise Marie Slack.

Deaths: Lamont A. B. Brooks, Roy F. Perham.

60 years ago: After 45 years in business, Edward P. Lyon closed his store, and went to Belmont, Mass., to spend the winter with his daughter, Mrs. Harry Kuzyk and family.

At a special town meeting at Odeon Hall, about 50 citizens gathered and voted to purchase a new pumper and accessories, authorizing Selectmen to borrow not more than \$12,000 for it.

Births: Stephen Leonard Greenleaf, Daniel Scott Daley.

Deaths: Mrs. Levie McAllister, Thomas Walter Gordon.

70 years ago: Richard Blake's house in Grafton was destroyed by fire. All furnishings were lost.

The Bethel National Bank closed its affairs. All creditors were notified to present claims for payment.

80 years ago: Wesley Wheeler was unable to attend to his duties of carrying the mail between the station and the post office, and Edwin Brown was doing the work in his absence.

Birth: Carol Audrey Collins.

Death: Darius M. Hill, Mrs. Mary Ann Gaudet.

90 years ago: The Coon Ice Cream Co. installed an electric ice cream cabinet at Farwell & Wight's.

The RFD men were using horses on the mail routes. Moses Davis was using a snowboat on the Lake Stage route.

100 years ago: Boats were being used crossing the Androscoggin at West Bethel the first week in January.

The bridge across the river by John Olson's, Wilson's Mills, was hit by a jam of ice, broke apart and swung down river from each bank.

110 years ago: The Prospect Hotel was the scene of a dancing party given by Mrs. A. E. Herrick and Mrs. J. G. Gehring in honor of Miss Cecil Houghton of Brunswick and Mr. George Gehring of Cleveland.

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Plan

Continued from page 1

to see if there was a way forward. Maloney said that while Comprehensive Plans provide a somewhat broad vision of where a town wants to go in the future on such topics as land use and economic development, another alternative, a strategic plan, is generally used for more specific municipal planning, such as for infrastructure. But, he said, there can be overlap and Comprehensive Plan concepts can be incorporated into a strategic plan.

Planning Assistant Sarah Tucker, who has advised the committee, said Bethel's Comprehensive Plan had been helpful because it encouraged Route 2 as an area for development, and when there has been opposition to development there, the plan "has been very helpful in getting that development to occur." She also said performance standards for projects reviewed by the Planning Board ask twice if a project is in conformance with the plan.

Committee member Mike Charron, who is also chairman of the Planning Board, said planners walk a fine line in imposing ordinance requirements on projects while trying not to restrict business.

The committee also opened the discussion to the public. Several voiced opposition to a Comprehensive Plan.

Rick Whitney, who owns Main Line Products on Main Street in Bethel, said he and others feel the Comprehensive Plan "is a huge infringement on personal rights." He questioned the need for an update, saying, "It's bad enough as it is. It's pretty much killed Main Street business in the past 15-20 years, since it's been enacted. It's a horrible plan, and why can't we just see if we can get rid of it and bring the town back to life?"

Eliminating the SSDC fee could eliminate the need for the plan, he said. He said if the town wants a plan, it should do a strategic plan for town-owned property, "but not my land, not Ron's (Savage) land, not Don's (Bennett) land (Savage and Bennett attended the meeting)."

Ron Savage said he had done about a dozen developments in Bethel, and owns land in the Route 2/Mayville area. He said the Comprehensive Plan "had come in handy to say that's where they projected the growth, but it never was the deciding factor on approvals," noting there are other requirements, such as MDOT ones.

Regarding the topic of

zoning, which only applies in Bethel to the Historic District and only because all residents there approved it, Savage said the economics of property prices effectively dictate where types of development take place elsewhere in town.

"Nobody's going to put a trailer park on Mayville, nobody's going to put a gravel pit on Mayville, no one's going to put a mobile home on Main Street, because of the economics," he said. "We do have zoning. It is the financial aspect that controls the zoning."

Savage also said it is important for the town not to do anything to restrict the second home economy in the area. He said of the approximately 500 homes he has built in the area in the past 28 years, "I bet you 480 of them are second homes. We surely don't want to restrict them from coming up here and building

"No one is going to put a mobile home on Main Street."

- Ron Savage

a second home, creating a second economy," which he said includes businesses that shovel, mow, roof, plow, clean and provide other services.

Savage also cited the concern about a potential withdrawal of Newry from SAD 44 and the significant loss of that tax base to the school budget. "We surely don't want to restrict the people on what they can and can't and will have to do with their land at that point," he said. "We have a sign ordinance that's holding back business, we have a Comprehensive Plan that in a roundabout way is holding back business. Most towns are trying to encourage people to come. We should take down every roadblock we can," he said, so there will be jobs and area youth can stay and work.

Bob Chadbourne, also referencing zoning, said there are already "an abundance of regulations."

Tucker said, "There has never been any mention of zoning, ever, with this current Comprehensive Plan Committee."

Charron said it might make sense to do away with the Comprehensive Plan. But, he said, the town still needed some sort of a strategy or vision.

Citing Savage's points on the second home economy, Charron said much of the economy is dependent on skiers.

"If I was a young man living in this town, I'd have a plan to leave," he said. "Because as soon as that mountain closes - and hopefully it never does - what happens to the person plowing, the guy cutting the lawn? We need to look forward to protect what we have, and grow what we have."

Said Savage, "The locals have had 230 years [the span of Bethel's existence as a town] and we haven't messed it up yet. You know what my comment is? 'Check with us in 100 years.' We have not messed this town up. I challenge people to come up with one mistake. Where is the glaring mistake we are trying to fix? Nothing is broken."

He noted this area has a shrinking student population, while other places need to build schools.

"We have so many choices," said Savage. "We can take the Woodstock kids and bring them up to a brand new elementary school in Bethel. Those are some of the choices that we should be making," he said, and the committee should look at how to promote growth in town to keep young people here. "The only thing that's broken is the roadblocks that need to be pulled."

He said doing away with the SSDC would help potential businesses.

Savage also said that business in South Paris, Oxford and Norway has "exploded since I've been a kid," and although he does not want Bethel to be those towns, "it could be a little more than what we have. Slow, steady growth is what we need."

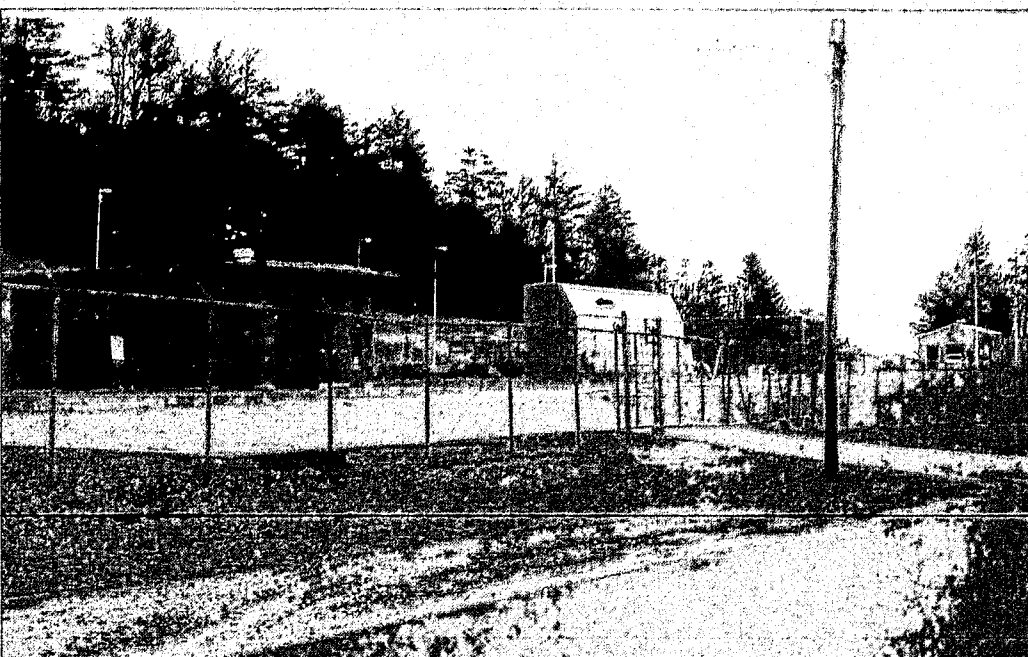
Charron later made a motion to recommend to selectmen to propose to "get out from under" the SSDC fee [by a Town Meeting vote] and if that happens, to establish a committee to work on strategic planning for the future. Committee member Fran Head added a motion to recommend doing away with the Comprehensive Plan, if the SSDC proposal passes. They were approved.

Town Manager Christine Landes said the town takes in approximately \$3,000 to \$4,000 a year in SSDC fees. The selectboard meets next on Monday at 7 p.m. at the Town Office.

Landes said Tuesday she is seeking a legal opinion on whether a Town Meeting vote is also needed to eliminate the Comprehensive Plan.

Pipeline

Continued from page 1



The pumping station for the Portland Montreal Pipe Line, located near Papoose Pond in North Waterford.

File photo

pipeline, instead of the \$60,000+ it got before, according to the town. He said both parties agreed the valuation could be revisited in the future, if needed.

O'Donnell also said some other towns where the pipeline is located have used state valuation figures as a basis for taxing it, but the figures are about 15 years old. When Gilead set pipeline valuations in the past, he said, "We felt [the state figures] were understated."

He speculated that Gilead's higher valuation relative to what other area towns have set using state figures is the reason PMPL approached that town, but not the others, for an abatement.

Other towns that get tax money from the pipeline include Bethel and Waterford. The state also receives taxes for the pipeline in the unorganized territory of Albany.

The length of the pipeline segments in each town varies.

Most recently Bethel received \$28,221 in annual taxes from PMPL and Waterford \$42,242, according to the towns. For Albany

PMPL paid \$32,546 in taxes, according to Maine Revenue Services records provided by Oxford County.

Bethel assessing agent Bill Van Tuinen said Wednesday that if the pipeline were to shut down, he would reconsider the valuation.

One of the pipeline's pumping stations is located in Waterford. Selectman/assessor John Bell said last week that \$41,023 of the total taxes paid were personal taxes for the pipes, pump station and associated buildings and equipment. The remaining \$1,219 was in real estate taxes for land, he said.

The taxes for Waterford are based on the assessment received from the state, said Bell.

He said that in his opinion, if the pipeline shut down "there is no immediate change in value. Much like a store or gas station that is closed, it can be re-started anytime either by the current owners or if sold, by the new owners. The equipment is all in place, the value is still there and unchanged. It is not uncommon for people to confuse what a prop-

erty is worth to them - because they no longer use it or they don't want it - with what it is worth. As tax assessors, we are tasked by the state with determining the fair market value.

"Obviously if through neglect or obsolescence the fair market value has declined, then so should the assessment. This may pertain to the pipeline at some point in the future."

On a related topic, two years ago environmental activists in Maine claimed PMPL was considering reversing the flow of oil in the line in order to transport Canadian dilbit crude oil (also referred to as tar sands oil) from Montreal to oil tankers in Portland.

The company initially denied that, but also said it would generally keep its business options open.

PMPL has more recently been challenging a new ordinance in South Portland that prevents oil from being loaded onto tankers there, which for now blocks the reversal option, according to published reports.

PMPL was contacted for comment on the issues, but did not respond by press time.

The Bethel Citizen

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Anyone Interested In adopting a pet from RPC can visit the shelter at 9 Swallow Road in South Paris Tues, Wed, Thurs: 12-4 pm; Fri: 12-6 pm; Sat & Sun: 12-5 pm. Most of the adoptable pets and the adoption application can be found online on the shelter's website at www.rpc.petfinder.com.

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2016

THS student's app takes top prize

by AMY WIGHT CHAPMAN

Telstar junior James Newkirk of Bryant Pond has just what software developer Tyler Technologies, Inc. is looking for: solid computer skills and the vision, enthusiasm, and motivation needed to identify a problem, conceive a technological solution, and follow through with its development.

That combination recently helped him land a \$6,000 college scholarship as the first-place winner of the Tyler Technologies 2015 Maine App Challenge.

The company, based in Plano, Texas, has over 500 employees at its three Maine locations, and expects that number to double over the next ten years with a planned expansion of its Yarmouth facility.

To help ensure the talent needed to fill those jobs, Tyler is taking a proactive approach. Last year, the company sponsored the first annual Maine App Challenge, encouraging high school students from across the state to compete for college scholarships by designing and creating an application for Android phones.

The contest was judged by a panel that included Jay Collier, the program director for Educate Maine's Project>Login, a business-led initiative which seeks to expand college and career readiness in the field of computer technology and development.

Other judges included several Maine IT and software development professionals.

The contest was open to Maine students in grades 9 to 12, and competitors could choose to enter as individuals or in teams of up to three designers.

A requirement of the Maine App Challenge was

to identify an unmet need in a participant's school or community, and design an app to meet that need.

Newkirk first heard of the contest last spring from Telstar Librarian Kelley Fraser. Around the same time, the Local Food Connection's Edible Bethel project was gearing up, encouraging businesses in downtown Bethel to plant fruits and vegetables in beds and planters to share with the public.

Newkirk conceived an app that would tell users where produce was available for the picking, and how to find their way to garden plots at participating businesses.

"I spent the course of a couple of months designing and developing the Edible Bethel app on my own time," he said. "The first step was to come up with an idea, followed by visualizing and blueprinting the app within my mind."

Although he is currently enrolled in an AP computer science course at school, Newkirk said most of his prior knowledge of programming and software development comes from doing online research.

"I had been teaching myself to code for two years prior to my enrollment in this course. When I'm stuck or have a question, I simply Google it and browse among the results until my question is resolved."

When he wants to teach himself a new programming language, he said, "I read through its documentation, browse programming forums, and use the countless alternative resources available."

Newkirk said one of the rules of the contest was that applications had to be designed using MIT App

Inventor 2, an Android application builder that uses drag and drop programming, allowing users to create apps without writing their own code.

Since most Android applications are written in the Java programming language, he said, "I was forced to get substantially creative when designing the Edible Bethel app, as applicants were restricted to a drag and drop application builder."

In addition to designing a working app, the contest required Newkirk to document his creative process, furnish a list of research references, and design and produce a YouTube video to explain its purpose to the target audience.

His prize-winning app, available in the Google Play store for Android phones, provided a map to guide users to the more than 20 locations around town where they could sample fresh produce during Edible Bethel's first growing season.

The winners of the Maine App Challenge were introduced at the Maine Digital Festival, held at the Augusta Civic Center in December on the same day as the third annual Maine Robotics EXPO, which was attended by more than 2,000 people.

In addition to computer programming, Newkirk's academic interests include mathematics and various branches of science. A member of the Student Council, Interact Club, and FBLA, he also serves as treasurer for the junior class, plays on the soccer team, and downhill ski races.

Following graduation from Telstar in 2017, he plans to pursue a degree in engineering or computer science.



FIRST MEETING-New Newry Town Administrator Amy Bernard, left, conducted her first meeting with Selectmen (from left) Wendy Hanscom, Gary Wight and Jim Largess on Tuesday. Among topics discussed were a possible change from a calendar year budget to a fiscal year one. Bernard will do more research on the topic. A. Aloisio

Bethel

By DON BENNETT



At the Rostay: There are new faces at the Rostay. Chris Wright and

Sonja Benson are the new owners. They moved here from Augusta and Mrs. Benson is the innkeeper while her husband is still employed in Augusta. Kathy Thrall is helping the new owners break in to their Mayville adventure. I had a good visit with Sonja Benson on Saturday.

Smoking Good BBQ at the Good Food Store was smoking away in fine form this weekend. Every time I passed by a customer was at the window. And the number to call is 824-4PIG - can't forget that.

Bethel Nordic Center at the Bethel Inn was open for the holiday weekend. Ten kilometers of trails were in use. The trails leaving the center looked very good on Sunday.

Fly in - Ski - Fly out At Bethel Airport: Saturday afternoon while Hays and I were on a dog walk along Davis Road the Mountain Explorer dropped off three skiers with their skis and outdoor gear at the Bethel Airport Terminal. About 15 minutes later the three walked across the parking apron to their plane, loaded up and about a half hour later took off. Dogs can help collect news.

Benjamin Bryant Today when a new building is started and a foundation is poured the cement most likely comes from a Coleman Concrete truck and the concrete was mixed and loaded at the North Road's Coleman plant.

From 1886 to 1892 most of the well-known major buildings in Bethel would sit on stone foundations which saw the work done by one man - Benjamin R. Bryant. Mr. Bryant started out his adult life as a Bird Hill farmer, having inherited the farm from his father. Then he bought what we know today as the Thurston Farm

in Mayville from Spencer Bartlett (1830-1892), a grandson of Eli Twitchell the original settler in the part of Mayville which runs from the Chamber of Commerce billboard north to the junction of Route 2 and the Sunday River Road. River View Resort occupies a section of the original Thurston farm including the Thurston's homestead house.

Along with stone work, Mr. Bryant apparently had very strong horse or maybe ox teams as he was frequently reported to have hauled 100,000 feet of pine to Kilborn's mill (on Mill Brook in Bethel).

Starting in 1886 news reported that Benjamin Bryant was doing the stone-work for the new chair factory building's foundation. In 1889 he had the contract for the new Bethel Lockup's stone foundation. In 1890 Bryant had two big jobs: one was the stone work for the Bethel Water Company's dam on Chapman Brook when the town water system was constructed; the other job was the foundation for the new Odd Fellows Hall - now part of the Maine Mineral and Gem Museum. Next year in November 1891 after the Methodist Church on Main Street had been demolished by a cyclone in July, Bryant was called on in November to put in the foundation for the new church building. His final big Bethel project was the foundation for a new Bethel Creamery on Church Street. Later the same year Bryant sold his extensive Mayville farm to Jacob A. Thurston, who at the time was the "mayor" of Newry Corner. Bryant left Bethel in November that year for Lowell, Mass.

Benjamin Bryant (1843-1911) was the son of Abraham Bryant (1795-1873) and his second wife, Roxana Sturtevant. Abraham Bryant was from Danville but had settled on Bird Hill where he developed a farm. He was father of 15 children by his two wives. He was deacon of the Methodist Church. Abraham's son Benjamin according to Historian Lapham's

brief bio "lived for a time on the old homestead, then sold out and bought the Barbour Bartlett farm below Mayville." Benjamin married Ellen Flavilla the daughter of Dr. David W. Davis who was considered very successful having built up a large practice in Locke's Mills, but after his buildings burned in 1877 he moved to Bethel Hill - this may have been the reason that Bryants moved to Bethel as well.

One more from history Maybe the least familiar major building in Bethel was the Bethel Creamery the last building started in Benjamin Bryant's foundation building career.

In 1904, the Bethel News described the Bethel Creamery on Church Street near Railroad Street as follows:

It was established about a dozen years ago and operated by the Bethel Dairying Company which was reorganized last May (1903) with the following officers: Samuel B. Twitchell, president; E.L. Bradford of Auburn, treasurer; Chester Wheeler, manager.

Mr. Goodwin R. Wiley (the Wiley Block man and Bethel's chief druggist) who lives only a short distance from the Creamery on Church Street was one of the original stockholders of the Bethel Dairying Company, and its clerk until it became the Bethel Creamery Company.

This institution is of much real value to the farmers living within a radius of fifteen miles, as it pays cash for what cream they can produce and deliver at the factory, and it also gives the village people an opportunity to obtain at reasonable prices, the purest and best of cream and butter. The Creamery is equipped with a water power churn, with the capacity of producing two hundred pounds of butter at each churning, with an average of three churnings per day.

A portion of the product is molded into pound cakes, neatly stamped and wrapped in paraffin



Telstar Junior James Newkirk (center) was awarded the top prize in the 2015 Tyler Technologies Maine App Challenge, a \$6,000 college scholarship. Celebrating Newkirk's achievement with him are his parents, Kelly and Stephen Newkirk, and several Tyler Technologies employees, including Ray Arbour, project leader. Submitted photo

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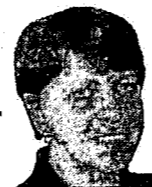
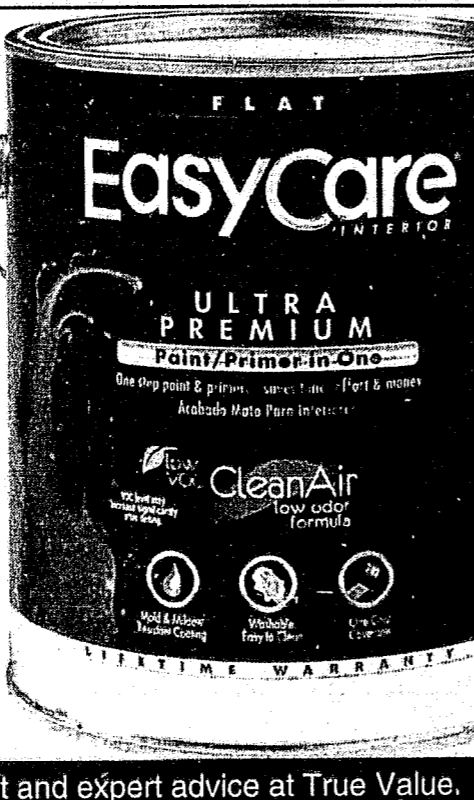
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The Way I See It

by Sharon Bouchard

My husband and I received a brand new 40-inch flat screen HDTV as a Christmas gift from my son and his girlfriend. This is truly a great gift.

The television we previously had suffered a death by toilet water. I know that sounds pretty strange, but that is exactly what happened. The wax ring on the upstairs bathroom eroded to the point of non-existence and when the toilet was flushed the water came down through the ceiling and through the vent in the back of the television. I'm sure you get the picture and the fact the television did not get the picture any longer.

A friend loaned us a television he was no longer using, for which we were grateful. I think the darn thing weighed 1,000 pounds and was much smaller than our dead TV, but we were pleased to have it.

Even though the toilet has been fixed I still prayed that there would be no overflow. I really didn't want to tell my friend that my toilet killed his television too.

But no such thing happened and now we have a lovely 40-inch flat screen HDTV. It weighs almost nothing and could actually be hung on the wall if we so chose. We opted to place it on a stand out of the potential flood zone.

Looking at how thin this

electronic wonder is made me think about various televisions from my past and just how darn big they were.

The first TV that my parents got when I was around 7 was a huge box that probably weighed at least 2,000 pounds. The screen wasn't all that big, though, and of course it had knobs to turn it on and off and to change the channels, of which there were only three. And it was black and white; I

I even snuck out of bed in the middle of the night just to watch the test pattern.

don't know that colored televisions even existed in the mid 1950s. Oh, and we also had to have a giant antenna up on the roof for reception.

I thought the television was the greatest thing in the whole wide world. I even snuck out of bed in the middle of the night just to watch the test pattern.

I can't even imagine explaining to my grandkids, who can watch TV on their cellphones, what televisions used to be like. That there was a

time when there were only two or three channels and they went off the air at midnight, showing just a test pattern until they resumed broadcasting sometime in the morning.

I'm sure the grandkids would find it quite amusing yet unbelievable that there was a time when remote controls didn't even exist in science fiction movies let alone the home, and you actually had to go to the television to turn it on and off or change the few channels available by hand.

And what about those great television lamps that everyone had on top of their TVs? Some of them even had a picture that rotated making it look like a real waterfall or flowing river. I bet if you had one of those now you could sell it for a pretty penny on eBay. With the flat screen TVs you can't put anything on top of them, let alone a light.

Oh the good old days of early television! My brand new 40-inch flat screen HDTV is so much better than the ones of olden times for sure. And even though my husband drives me crazy with channel surfing, the remote control is a wonderful invention for which I am grateful.

But the way I see it, it would still be nice to be able to have a place to put one of those cute motion action television lamps.

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per. That not intended for home consumption is packed in boxes and crates for shipment. Connected with the Creamery is a model refrigerator and an ice house, with a sufficient capacity for the use of the Creamery, and the supply of town patrons, during the summer season. This Company is also agent for and dealer in neat stock and poultry medicinal preparations the product of Our Husbands Manufacturing Co. of Lyndon, Vt. These are very highly recommended by poultry keepers, dairy men and stock raisers all over the country. Mr. Wheeler, manager of the Creamery is an experienced dairyman, and holds a certificate for competency in testing cream by the Babcock system, the result of practical knowledge acquired at the University of Maine.

Bethel

By NANCY BROWN



The last week of 2015 brought much-appreciated snow. We got about 8 inches here in Bethel but it was enough for some people to test their snowmobiles, snowshoes, and cross country skis. I look forward to snowshoeing all year. With enough snow on the ground, snowshoeing is like walking on clouds. You can literally walk over ruts and gullies, rocks, and downed

tree limbs without stumbling. On Sunday I snowshoed across our back pasture and into the edge of the woods. I stuck to the areas where snow covered the ground adequately. I saw tracks of deer, foxes, and snowshoe hares. All of them heading toward the brook. I, however, stayed away from the brook and the wetlands. Previous experience this time of year has warned me that what looks like solid snow pack in the boggy areas may actually hide running water. Most of our local ponds and lakes (and certainly the brooks and rivers) are not frozen enough to walk on yet.

Bethel does a great job clearing the streets and sidewalks in town. They have set out barrels of sand to use on the icy spots on the streets and sidewalks. However, I noticed that after the snowfall last week some people are choosing to walk in the streets. I know the streets may look better than the sidewalks, but the practice is a danger to pedestrians and drivers. Did you know that a car going 35 mph takes as much as 6 times the distance to stop when the road is icy? And that's assuming that the driver sees you through the snow or the fog or the rain or the dark. So let's put on our boots and stay on the sidewalks.

I just got my winter copy of "The Gazette," Gould Academy's magazine. Gould has announced that alumnae Elizabeth McLellan, class of '69 (my class) will give the commencement address to the graduating class of 2016 on June 4. Liz is the founder and president of the Portland-based Partners for World Health, an organization that works with hospitals and other health care facilities to collect and distribute unused and discarded medical supplies to developing countries. Liz started PWH in her home in 2007. After she had collected 11,000 pounds of medical supplies, she rented a small warehouse, which the group soon outgrew. Today PWH partners with 85 medical facilities in Maine, New Hampshire, and Massachusetts to collect medical supplies for developing countries. In addition to sending medical supplies overseas, PWH also organizes educational and teaching trips. Liz told "The Gazette," "If you believe in what you want to do - do it. Keep going forward. People will come and help you because they want to be a part of what you're doing." You can get more information about PWH at their website www.partnersforworldhealth.org. If you have news to share, please e-mail me at brown-nancy1950@gmail.com.

and where the teacher took us to make us confess to crimes we had not committed. Someone had recently installed two small bathrooms in place of the out-houses which were there previously. Being at the West Bethel School was like the military. Each day the same, we marched and turned and sat on command and if you screwed up you got the red mechanical pencil jabbed into your brain. Did I say how much I loved summer vacations? Sitting here typing I realize the temperature has dropped significantly and my nose is beginning to get cold. I'll have to get out from under the covers and put a few sticks of wood on the fire. I've lived with wood heat most of my life and really enjoy the constant heat it produces. They say this year that heating oil is so low that it's a better deal than wood. I don't care, because I love wood. The weather tonight is supposed to be the coldest we've seen all winter. It is 6 degrees right now and getting up to 11 tomorrow. Brrrrr. By Wednesday it's back to the high 30s again. The weather has really been wacky this winter but I'm not complaining. May your week be blessed with good works and happy people. Contact me at paulkmarie@gmail.com or 836-2266.

East Bethel

By WALLY RITZ



Welcome, 2016. I hope the year is off to a good start for everyone. It is starting out kind of on the cold side - my, I am spoiled by the warmer than usual temperatures. In a few days it will already warm up again. Arlene Harrington had a nice lunch with her daughter, Esther Fuller, on Christmas Day. The first Trivia question of the year is: Where had Colonel John York lived? Remember to call me at 507-1008 or e-mail heinerichcracker@gmail.com. Have a great week.

West Bethel

By KAREN PAUL



When I walked this morning on the Flat Road I remembered how cold it was trudging to school in the wind and frigid air. Mamma made me wear jeans lined with flannel under my dresses. She didn't care that I felt embarrassed about the old jeans only that I kept warm. When we got to school early we had to be outside on the playground until someone rang the bell. Even inside the school, which was built in the 20s, it was cold and drafty. Refrigeration was not a problem in those days as the cloak room where we kept our lunch bags was pretty cold. Nestled into our wooden seats we could see south up the Flat Road toward my home. There was a second "twin room" on the north side of the building that was not used



Sonja Benson is one of the new owners at the Rostay in Bethel.

D. Bennett

Funds for the Local Road Assistance Projects to be appropriated was reduced from \$33,729 to \$27,000. The account for the restoration of the Bandstand will be returning \$1,919 to surplus which will necessitate raising and appropriating \$2,000 for re-roofing, a project which could not be completed in 2015 due to the inability to find a contractor late in the season as they were all booked for other projects. A lengthy discussion took place in regards to the work load and present structure of the Town Office Staff which included the possibilities of going to Town-Manager or Administrative Assistant form of government.

Of course, I have plenty of ideas about all of that and I want to make the community aware of some hard facts. As most of you know, I served on the Board of Selectmen for nine years in the late '70s and early 80s and the contrast between that work load and the tasks expected to be accomplished by the Selectmen in 2015 and forward is overwhelming. It's one of the reasons that it is so difficult to find people to serve in that capacity. If the Town wants an efficient government, then it needs to consider doing something different because it is impossible for three people who have full-time jobs to give the necessary time to this endeavor. Just one fact will tell you what the Selectmen are up against. Their official titles are Selectman, Assessor and Overseer of the Poor. These titles include the administration of General Assistance, the overseeing of all Town Departments and the one requiring the most work assessing. In 1978 Andover had approximately 600 parcels of land, today we have 950 plus. Despite having the assistance of an outside assessor under contract, a great deal of transfers and assessing questions fall under the responsibility of the Selectmen. Sometimes, especially over the last year when so much time was required to address our newly formed school and all that entails other items for concern didn't get addressed. Back in the 80s there was a move-

ment to go to Town Manager form of government, but after several meetings that fell by the wayside because people were afraid we couldn't afford it. That was 30 years ago and we need to do something which in the end could help save money by becoming more efficient. The opinions in this paragraph are my own and do not in any way speak for the other two selectmen. Don't forget to get your new transfer station stickers at the Town Office or to license your dog. Also be aware that there is a red light in the Town Hall which will come on if the temperature drops in the building. If you should see it, please contact Jim Adler or Keith Farrington.

Andy Barlow looks forward with great anticipation to moving into his new home. Construction is nearly complete. Plumbing, heating and electricity are in working order and the kitchen sink, kitchen counters, and cupboards were installed this week. The beautiful hand crafted bed made by Don Bailey, brother of contractor, Howard Bailey, was delivered this past weekend as were the recliner and love seat for the living room. Thank you to Bob Susbury and Rick Nelson for taking charge of the mattress delivery and to Peg Susbury and Laurie Beaudoin for organizing bedding and bath finishing touches. Appliance delivery is expected this week.

If you have made a pledge to Ben Byam's weight loss challenge to benefit the Andy Project, please drop off your donation to the Library on Wednesdays or Saturdays or mail your check, payable to GRML, to the Library at PO Box 64, Hanover, Maine 04237. Please indicate "Andy Project" on the check memo.

Commemorative T-shirts for the Andy Project are available for \$15 at the Hanover Town Office or the Library. All proceeds will benefit the Andy Project. A variety of men's, women's and children's sizes are available in both gray and white.

Andover

By JANE RICH



Now that the holidays are over, attention will be turned more and more toward Town Meeting in March and all that entails. Selectmen have scheduled two workshops in the near future to address the Town Report and their Budget Recommendations. The Budget Committee met on Wednesday to consider several town departments for 2016 to be voted on at the annual Town Meeting scheduled for March 19. Figures for Fire and Rescue Personnel, Fire Hydrant Rental, Street Lights, Building and Vehicle Insurance, Professional Services, Dues for MMA and AVCOG and the Memorial Day Service stayed consistent with 2015 figures. The amount from State

meeting to go to Town Manager form of government, but after several meetings that fell by the wayside because people were afraid we couldn't afford it. That was 30 years ago and we need to do something which in the end could help save money by becoming more efficient. The opinions in this paragraph are my own and do not in any way speak for the other two selectmen. Don't forget to get your new transfer station stickers at the Town Office or to license your dog. Also be aware that there is a red light in the Town Hall which will come on if the temperature drops in the building. If you should see it, please contact Jim Adler or Keith Farrington.

GRML trustees' meeting The Library has resumed regular hours after taking a short break over the holidays. The monthly Trustees' meeting is scheduled for next Tuesday, Jan. 12 at 6 p.m. The Busy Bees are still meeting on Tuesday afternoons from 1 to 3 p.m. at the Library. News, comments, questions? Please contact HanoverMENews@gmail.com.

From the

OCSD Patrol Log

Tuesday, Dec. 29

At 11:44 a.m. Deputy Derek MacDonald conducted an interview in response to a report of a threat in Bethel.

At 4:17 p.m. on the Sunday River Road Deputy Derek MacDonald issued a summons to a driver for operating after suspension.

Wednesday, Dec. 30

At 8:47 a.m. Deputy Josh Daley received a call regarding a criminal mischief complaint on the East Bethel Road in Bethel. Remnants of firecrackers placed on the roof of a vehicle were observed.

At 5:51 p.m. a report was received of fraud on the East Bethel Road in Bethel. Deputy Matt McDonnell gave the caller information for a fraud hotline.

Thursday, Dec. 31

At 6:46 p.m. Deputy Josh Daley conducted an OUI detail on Mayville and Sunday River roads in Bethel.

Friday, Jan. 1

At 2 a.m. Deputies Matt McDonnell and Derek MacDonald responded to the intersection of Parkway and Mayville Road in Bethel for a vehicle off the road. Investigation revealed the operator, Shannon M. Long, 23, was under the influence of intoxicants. She was arrested.

At 6:49 a.m. Sgt. Tim Holland responded to a report of a subject found deceased off the Sunday River Road in Bethel. The subject was from out of state, and no foul play was found or expected.

At 4:19 p.m. Deputy Steve Witham received a traffic complaint on a vehicle on Vernon Street in Bethel. He located the vehicle and spoke with the driver.

Saturday, Jan. 2

At 1:44 a.m. on Mayville Road in Bethel Deputy Josh Aylward stopped a vehicle for failing to use the turn signal. Investigation found the driver was intoxicated. Scott Perkins, 30, of Norway was charged with OUI.

At 6:37 a.m. Deputies Andy Whitney and Josh Daley responded to a vehicle rollover on Route 120 in Andover. There were no injuries.



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Locke's Mills

By AMY WIGHT CHAPMAN



As predicted, the temperatures have taken a dive to more seasonal levels, and with the several inches of snow we got on Dec. 29, it finally looks and feels like winter. As I write this at noon on Monday, our temperature has only crept up to 16 degrees, from a low of 10 this morning.

I'd have to check Tony's daily records to be sure, but I think we may have only had one morning in the single digits so far this winter. On the other hand, two years ago this week, we were in the midst of a stretch of days when the thermometer dipped to 20 below overnight.

I've already broken one of my New Year's resolutions, which was to write a "real" letter - the kind you fold up, put in an envelope, add a stamp, and send through the mail - every Sunday. I do plenty of communicating via e-mail, Facebook, Messenger, and texting, but there are a few people in my life who still write old-fashioned letters, and I'm afraid I'm not very prompt about answering them.

My current backlog of correspondence includes an Oct. 1 letter from a former Greenwood summer resident who reads my column from his home in Pennsylvania, and one from Nov. 5 from East Bethel native Deborah Farwell Eldredge, who lives in Unity.

Debbie is my father's cousin, and always came to visit us at camp in the summer with her three boys. She told me in her letter that she works at the polls each year with a friend from Andover, who brings back issues of the Citizen for her to read.

She also told me a story about her grandfather, Porter Farwell, a farmer in East Bethel. He was disabled after a broken leg later in life, and unable to do much farming, so Debbie's mother taught him to knit and "he kept the men

in socks to wear working in the woods." Debbie learned to knit by watching her grandfather.

She doesn't use Facebook or e-mail, but her daughter-in-law Tammy keeps me posted on her news, which is how I know that she fell and broke her wrist badly in mid-December. Hearing that made me feel all the more guilty for not having answered her letter, and it was going to be the first one I wrote on the first Sunday of 2016... but I forgot all about my resolution until after I'd gone to bed. Of course, there's no reason why I can't write a letter on a Monday, or a Tuesday, and I hope to have her letter answered before next Sunday!

Betsey Foster says she doesn't make New Year's resolutions, but she follows a "100-day practice" started within the past 50 years or so by a Tai Chi master named Jou Tsung Hwa. It entails simply picking a specific thing and doing it each day for 100 days, from writing a haiku to setting aside time for reflection each day.

"It doesn't have to have any relationship to anything - it could be to brush the cat daily," Betsey said, adding that it traditionally begins on the Chinese New Year, which falls on Feb. 8 this year. She finds it "a good way to appreciate the dark days of this season and note the progression toward light."

And speaking of the progression toward light, as of Jan. 7, we have gained one minute of daylight in the morning, added to the 17 minutes we've gained in the afternoon since the earliest sunset, 4:03 p.m. on Dec. 12. It may not sound like much, but for many, it's the difference between coming home from work in light or dark. And by Feb. 1, we will have gained 17 minutes in the morning and 47 in the afternoon. Now, that's significant!

E-mail your news to amy.w.chapman@gmail.com, leave a message at 875-5511, or contact me on Facebook.



HEADING FOR THE TAG-Telstar and Gould skiers were among the competitors in Saturday's Telstar Relays. Pictured above are as they near the finish line to tag their next teammates are (from left) Duncan Forbes of Gould and Ricco Call of Telstar. The team of Forbes, Leela Hornbach, Steph Nicols and Caleb Clarke finished second of 29 foursomes, while Call's team with Carla Boyle-Wight, Kaitlyn Brown and Kellen True placed ninth. Another Gould team of Livy Clarke, Sam Weaver, Mia Shifrin and Bennett Hight was sixth, and the Bethel Outing Club team of Josh Elliot, Gaelen Boyle-Wight, Marta Ople and Jenny Wilbraham was 12th.

Gilead

By LIN CHAPMAN



The first column of 2016! Time to remember to start using 2016 on any checks that are written.

My brother, Steve McLain, stopped by the house last Saturday. He was wearing his brand new camouflage winter boots that Brad and Carole had given him for Christmas.

Mary Tyler had some relatives stop by to visit her last week. Adam and Jess Bell and their two children, Olivia and Paxton, from Hill, N.H. traveled to Gilead to have a late-mini Christmas with Mary.

When I turned on my computer last Thursday morning, I found out I had no internet access. That happens occasionally, so I went through all the steps to reset the system. Nothing happened, so I called Mary Tyler to see if she had internet access. She did, so this meant a call to Oxford Networks to see if they could help. The man on the other end of the line tried his best, but the solution was to send a technician to my house. He came to the house and within a few minutes had figured out the problem. He said the modem was about ten years old and it needed to be replaced. When that was completed, I was back online again.

Hugh and I had some company over New Year's. Our grandson, Ben Chapman, has been home in Ellsworth on break from the US Coast Guard Academy. He could not make it over for Christmas, but stopped New Year's Day on his way back to Connecticut. He had to be back at the academy on Sunday. We spent some time visiting with Tim, Michele, Ajay and Sidney. It was so great to see him since it has been quite a while. He will be receiving word of his assignment in March and then will be graduating in May.

The town books have closed for 2015. Now the work begins to balance the accounts, get the 2016 budget done and get the town report ready.

Got any news? Call 836-2987 or e-mail chapmal@hotmail.com.*

Bryant Pond

By ALICE HOYT



Sympathy is extended to the family of Dr. David Willard.

Larry Billings says he is working for the benefit of the Bethel Historical Society.

Services at the Baptist Church are Sunday School at 9:15, Morning Worship at 10:30, Evening Service at 6 p.m. Wednesday evening at 6:30 is Mid-Week Service, Bloom for girls 13 to 18 and Foundations for guys 15 and up. Tuesday, Jan. 12 will be Ladies' Coffee Cup Devotions at 9 a.m. All ladies are welcome to attend. Tentative date for the annual meeting is Jan. 19 at 6 p.m.

I hope you all had an en-

joyable Christmas. We did. All our family, or most all, came sometime during the day. We had 17 for dinner and 21 for supper and exchange of gifts with my sister and some of her family.

Sympathy is extended to my nephew and wife who lost her mother, Rhonda and Andrew Chase and daughter Liza.

I wish you all a happy and healthy New Year.

Upton

By JOE BERNIER



The Ladies Aid began serving Sunday Breakfasts Jan. 3. They intend to continue serving breakfasts through March.

The Upton Selectmen are scheduled to meet Tuesday, Jan. 12, 7 p.m. at the town office.

The holidays are over. I am ready to ride my sled, come-on snow!

Please call 533-2010 or e-mail backstjoe@gmail.com with your local news.

Waterford

By ROCKIE GRAHAM



Here we are in the New Year. Although not expected to last, it seems we finally have some seasonably cold days.

Due to a small amount of snow and the seasonable cold, skiing appears to be very alive and well. That is good as this is ski country and a lot of our local businesses depend on it. It is nice to see that the winter farmers' markets are doing well in the area. I attended the Norway farmers' market at the Congo Church in Norway. It was nice to see some fresh vegetables that were organic and locally grown available even in January. I bought chicken, greens and even some beef. The chicken was great. The beef we will try next week. Just having it available was nice.

Have a great week and have a great beginning to 2016. To send in info for me to print, please call 743-0583.

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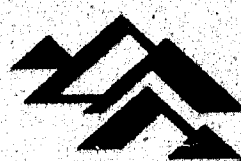
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Backyard reflections

By SARA WRIGHT

The Tree of Peace

I look forward to celebrating the dark of the year by tipping balsam to make a fragrant wreath for the house and by stringing up a festival of lights both inside and outside. Outdoors these lights light up the night reminding me that the winter solstice has passed, and that soon the sun will rise higher in the sky.

As I hung the last crystal prism on a bountiful young evergreen last month a hairy woodpecker caught my attention. Positioned directly overhead, he tapped furiously on one of the branches of the giant white field pine that shelters the cabin from the north wind, is home and a safe haven for countless birds throughout the year, and provides my gardens with protection from early frost. I am convinced that Woodpecker was reminding me to thank the tree for all her gifts.

The noble Northern White Pine is native to eastern North America, occurring from Newfoundland west through the great lakes region to Minnesota and south along the Appalachian Mountains. This tree has the distinction of being the tallest tree in eastern North America. White pine forests originally covered much of northeast but less than

one percent of old growth forests remain intact due to extensive logging. During the age of square riggers "mast pines" were marked and reserved for the British Royal Navy which eventually led to the Pine Tree Riot in 1772. During that conflict colonists cut down and hauled off many of these stately pines, an act of rebellion that played a significant role in the events that led to the American Revolution.

The white pine is the Maine state tree and its pine cone and tassel is the Maine state flower attesting to its continued importance to us economically. Young white pines are also cultivated as Christmas trees and shipped around the country.

White pines distinguish themselves by having needles that are clustered in bundles of five that the trees drop in a gradual manner from the spring of one season to the fall of another — every eighteen months. The long slender cones peak in number every few years (like they did around here this year). Mature trees can easily be 200-250 years old, and some can attain an age of four hundred years. These trees grow rapidly — about three feet a year between the ages of 15-45 years with slower increments on both ends. The tree is somewhat resistant to fire, and mature survivors are

able to re-seed burned areas; they are also self-seeding. The cambium layer of the tree is edible, as most animals and indigenous folks know. It is high in vitamin C and can be pounded into flour. The nuts are sweet and nutritious. Pine resin has been used to waterproof baskets pails and boats by Native peoples and a wet pulp from the cambium layer can be applied to wounds to prevent infection. This magnificent tree is known to the Haudenosaunee (Iroquois Nation) as the Tree of Peace.

The legend of the Tree of Peace originated in the northeast during a period when the people forgot to be thankful and conflict escalated between the tribes. The Creator chose a young Mohawk Indian named "Peacemaker" to become his messenger to restore the peace between the peoples. In one version the young man built a canoe of white stone and set out on his journey on the northern shores of Lake Ontario with the Mohawks astonished by the sight because they had never seen a stone float before.

The first person the young man met was a woman named Jigonsassee who offered food and a warm resting place to any travelers passing through the area. In return she asked that the people leave all weapons outside her door. Because this wom-

an embraced peace with her actions, Peacemaker told her that she would become the first Clan Mother, a living embodiment of women's leadership, the "Mother of Nations."

Peacemaker visited the other nations belonging to the Iroquois: the Seneca, the Oneida, Cayuga and Onondaga proposing a set of laws that would allow the Five Nations to live in peace and unity. This system of self rule was accepted by all; it was guided by ethical principles and named the Great Law of Peace.

Peacemaker chose a Northern White Pine to represent the Five Nations bound as One People because the needles on this tree were clustered in bundles of five. This particular tree was so tall that it pierced the sky and at night stars clung to its branches.

Peacemaker uprooted the pine and instructed the men to bury their weapons in the hole along with their feelings of envy, greed, and hate. After the weapons were placed in the cavity, Peacemaker buried the roots of the Tree of Peace back into the ground covering the armaments. The Great White Roots of Peace spread out in each of the four directions. An eagle made his home on the top of the tree to keep a watchful eye on earth and sky while the roots spread out warning

the new confederacy of impending danger from below. It is said that the Tree of Peace thrived for five hundred years.

Some folks are aware that the Constitution of the United States had its genesis in the Great Law of Peace. In fact the only part of the Great Law that was not adopted by the Constitution was the inclusion of the Clan Mothers in the political process. According to the Great Law of Peace a man was chosen to represent each tribe when the group met in council where all decisions were made democratically. But the Clan Mothers could overturn any final decision made by the men if the women so decreed.

The pejorative term "petticoat politics" was used by the Colonists to make fun of the fact that the Iroquois Nation believed that women needed to be included in political decision making. What I find most fascinating about this story besides the obvious (we need women to participate in government to re-dress imbalances) is that it wasn't only weapons that needed burial under the Tree of Peace it was also the underlying negative feelings of greed, envy, and hatred that required interment. What can we learn from this tale?

On a practical level the story suggests that any

law enacted for peace will end up meaningless unless the attitudes and underlying feelings of the people reflect the words of the law being passed. Both the words and actions of the people must be congruent. Herein lies a sobering truth. I can't help thinking in these times of escalating war, terrorist attacks, warmongering, and mind-bending violence of all kinds how important it is for us as individuals to be self responsible about our negative feelings towards others, as individuals and as groups. Common sense dictates that the more fear, envy, and hatred that we project onto others or enact in the world the more dangerous our world will become. Our political problems aren't just out there; they originate in each of us as human beings.

Perhaps at this dark time of year the words "peace on earth" will carry a resonance, conveying the need of every individual to reflect upon past grievances and begin to let them go so more poison doesn't flow into a world that is already so deeply troubled.

And perhaps those of us who love all trees and those who keep trees lit to celebrate the season like I do will take a moment to honor the majestic Northern White Pine, remembering that our Maine state tree was once christened "The Tree of Peace."

COMMUNITY CALENDAR

The Woodstock Historical Society will not meet in the months of January and February. Monthly meetings will resume in March.

Thursday, Jan. 7

Story Time at the Bethel Library; 10 a.m., Bethel Library, 5 Broad Street (across from the Common). Read a story, sing, and play at the library. A parent or caregiver must accompany the child. FMI call the library at 824-2520.

Stephanie Emery Presentation; 6:30 p.m., West Paris Library. Stephanie will present a talk and show pictures from her adventures with a tour company called Adventure Bus. Her travels with Adventure Bus have taken her to all 50 states and 45 of the 50 National Parks. Stephanie's photographs of the Western National Parks are currently on display at the library. FMI: 674-2004.

Friday, Jan. 8

Red Bull Frozen Rush at Sunday River; 12 to 4 p.m. FMI: <http://sundayriver.com/events-and-activities/events-calendar/frozen-rush>.

Music Without Borders Encore Recital by Mark Demidovich; 7:30 p.m., McLaughlin Science Center, Gould Academy, Church Street, Bethel. Open to the public at no charge. Seating is limited.

Saturday, Jan. 9

Oxford Hills Honey Bee Club Meeting; 1 p.m. at the Oxford County Extension Center, 9 Olson Road, South Paris. Club members please bring beekeeping gizmos and gadgets for demonstration. There will be a brief meeting for nominations and election of officers. Public welcome. FMI contact Kevin Farr affarrout@roadrunner.com or visit mainehoneybees.com.

Ski Museum of Maine Vintage Ski Fashion Show is CANCELLED for this year.

Sunday, Jan. 10

John Waller in Concert (Sponsored by The Lighthouse Events); 6 p.m., Bethel Alliance Church, 251 Walkers Mills Road (across from Telstar parking lot). John Waller's songs have been featured in the movies Fireproof and War Room. The concert is free with a love offering being taken. Please join us! FMI: 207-824-2289.

Tuesday, Jan. 12

Down Home Maine: A Conversation About Cuba with Richard Blanco; 4:30 to 6 p.m., McLaughlin Auditorium, Gould Academy. An informative conversation and Q&A with author and 2013 inaugural poet Richard Blanco about what it means to be Cuban, what it means to be American, and how he strives to "mend the two halves of himself." It will be helpful to have read Richard's poem Matters of the Sea, written for the reopening of the U.S. embassy in Havana, and its preface; both are contained in a chapbook which is available at Books 'n' Things in Norway or at the Bethel Library. Sponsored by Western Mountains Senior College; free and open to the public. FMI: 890-4812 or amy.w.chapman@gmail.com.

Beginning Ukulele Class; 5:30 to 6:30 p.m., Telstar High School, Room 218. Participants should bring a ukulele and a curiosity to learn how to use it. We will cover chord playing, music reading, and singing and playing. Max-8 students. Instructor: Simon Smith. Tuition: \$45. Call 824-2136 ext. 1340 or <http://sad44.maineadulted.org>.

Beginner Fiddling; 6 to 7 p.m., Telstar High School, Room 133. Instructor: Paul Cormier. This is the first in a 6-week course series. Come and learn to play the fiddle! Paul teaches and plays in the oral tradition. He has been playing for about 40 years. You will start out learning a simple tune and then explore ways to enhance it. He also uses a "call and response" technique where the student will mimic back what he plays. Min-4, Max-5 students. Tuition: \$160. Call 824-2136 ext. 1340 or <http://sad44.maineadulted.org>.

Beginning Guitar Class; 6:30 to 7:30 p.m., Telstar High School, Room 218. Students will cover chord playing and will be singing and playing. You will have to bring a guitar and a curiosity to learn how to use it. Max-6 students. Instructor: Simon Smith. Tuition: \$45. Call 824-2136 ext. 1340 or <http://sad44.maineadulted.org>.

Wednesday, Jan. 13

Bethel Senior Citizens Meeting/Luncheon; 11 a.m., Bethel Methodist Church. This is a potluck dinner; members are asked to bring a dish to share. The auction will also be held, and members are asked to bring items to be auctioned off.

Polite Puppy/Young Dog Training; 6 to 7 p.m., Greenwood Town Hall. This is the first in a six-week course series. Open to puppies and young dogs from 12 weeks up to one year old. Learn positive methods for training your pup to politely greet people and other dogs, loose leash walking, sit, down, stay and some tricks too! This class is not suitable for reactive dogs. If you have question if this class is for you and your pup contact India (cobs@roadrunner.com) to discuss. For more information about her training methods go to www.moxiedogtraining.com. Tuition: \$75. Call 824-2136 ext. 1340 or <http://sad44.maineadulted.org>.

Mollycodd Chapter of Trout Unlimited General Membership Meeting; Scott Stone will make a presentation on TU's upcoming fly tying programs with Casting for Recovery and the Oxford County Cancer Research Center at The First Congregational Church, 17 East Main Street, South Paris. The Board of Directors meeting will start at 6 p.m., with the General Membership meeting starting at 7 p.m.

Voice Lessons; 6:30 to 7:30 p.m., Telstar High School, Room 218. This is the first in a six-week course series for people with a love of singing but no formal training, you will cover healthy use of your voice, singing solo songs and some choral music, and music reading. Instructor: Simon Smith. Tuition: \$45. FMI: 824-2316 ext. 1340 or <http://sad44.maineadulted.org>. Call 824-2136 ext. 1340 or <http://sad44.maineadulted.org>.

Jan. 14 and 21

First Aid/CPR Course; 6 to 10 p.m., Bethel Family Health Center. CPR includes: adult, child & infant CPR; obstructed airway. First Aid includes: burns, controlling bleeding, broken bones, poisoning, soft tissue injuries, heat & cold exposure, bandaging. You will receive a 3-year certificate in First Aid and a 1-year certificate in CPR. Limit 10 students. Instructor: Jeannine Thornton. Tuition: \$55. FMI: 824-2316 ext. 1340 or <http://sad44.maineadulted.org>.

Thursday, Jan. 14

Bethel Area Prevention Task Force Meeting; 3 p.m., SAD 44 Main Office.

Age-Friendly Community Gathering; 4 to 6 p.m., West Parish Congregational Church, Church Street, Bethel. Hear from and talk with Amy Flowers of Analytic Insight in Lewiston regarding her analysis of data collected from over 200 Age-Friendly Community surveys.

2016 Campaign Kickoff Dinner; 5 p.m., Oxford County Democratic Committee at the Rumford Eagles Hall. Tickets \$12, Seniors and students, \$7. Reserve tickets at 875-2116 or info@oxforddems.org.

Saturday, Jan. 16

Community Supper and Palestine Talk; 6 p.m., West Parish Congregational Church, Church Street, Bethel. Jim Chandler will talk about the people of Palestine and the culture of the region. He spent 2 1/2 weeks in the country this past summer. Community Supper of baked beans and casseroles and homemade pies prior to the talk. Donations for the Smile Fund.

Women's Wellness Weekend in Andover; Storm day, Sunday, Jan. 17. Featuring: Yoga, Intuitive Tarot Readings, Reiki, Chakra Alignment, Polarity, Amethyst Bio-mat, Healthy Foods and more. Please call Carol Emery 392-3161 to schedule an appointment.

Sunday, Jan. 17

Longaberger Basket Bingo; 1 p.m. (doors open at 11 a.m.), Locke's Mills Legion Hall, 595 Gore Road, Locke's Mills. Tickets: \$10 in advance (can be purchased at Woodstock Elementary School) \$15 at the door - 16 games. Door prizes, raffles, lunch options available. You must be 16 or older to play. FMI: 665-2228 or 890-2812.

Wednesday, Jan. 20

Understanding Health Care Vocabulary; 10 a.m. to 12 p.m., Telstar High School. This is an introductory course in medical terminology with Registered

Nurse Haley Tripp for anyone who would like to better understand what your medical professionals are telling you. Terminology, common problems and how to find accurate information on the internet will be covered. Tuition: \$30 (\$25 for Seniors 65+). Call 824-2136 ext. 1340 or <http://sad44.maineadulted.org>.

Into the Woods Speaker Series Kickoff; 7 p.m., Gould Academy's McLaughlin Auditorium, Church Street, Bethel. Ryder Scott, Director of 4-H Learning Camps and Gabe Perkins, Executive Director of Mahosuc Pathways will share the process of creating and maintaining safe and beautiful trails. They will lift up the work of the Oxford County Conservation Corps. Free and open to the public.

Thursday, Jan. 21

Story Time at the Bethel Library; 10 a.m., Bethel Library, 5 Broad Street (across from the Common). Read a story, sing, and play at the library. A parent or caregiver must accompany the child. FMI call the library at 824-2520.

Saturday, Jan. 23

Texas Hold'em Tournament; 12 p.m. (doors open at 11), Jackson-Silver Post 68, American Legion, 595 Gore Road, Locke's Mills. \$50 buy-in, \$5 license, high hand option, 50/50, BYOB, light meals and beverages. FMI: Ray (890-3737).

MLT Howard Pond Overlook Hike; Participants are to meet at Hanover Town Hall at 1 p.m. to carpool to the beginning of the walk. The walk is gradual with a brief steep section at the end. The reward will be views of Howard Pond, the Mahosuc Range and the Presidentials, as well as a fire for warming, marshmallows to roast and hot chocolate to drink. If there is good snow cover, snowshoes will be needed; otherwise, please bring footwear with winter hiking traction. Of course, dress warmly and carry water.

4th Annual Cause for Laughter; Mt. Abram's Loose Boots Lounge. Doors open at 6 p.m., show begins at 7 p.m. Attendees must be 21 years and older to attend. A \$15 buffet, regular menu items and drinks may be purchased at the Loose Boots Lounge. Tickets are \$20 and include a \$10 voucher toward a 2016 lift ticket at Mt. Abram. Cause for Laughter was established to raise funds for local needy families.

Monday, Jan. 25

SeniorsPlus; 1 to 4 p.m., Fryeburg Library. Representatives will be on hand to answer any questions or concerns you may have about services and resources for older adults and adults with disabilities and their families. Free and open to the public. FMI/Appointments: 1-800-427-1241.

Tuesday, Jan. 26

Introduction to Self-Employment Workshop; 1 to 3 p.m., Telstar High School. This free one-session workshop with instructor Karleen Andrews of New Ventures Maine will help you decide if self-employment is the right choice for you. The class covers entrepreneurship, the pros and cons of owning your own business, ways to manage risk, the major elements of a business plan, important financial pieces, important steps needed for startup and the many resources available to help you succeed. Call 824-2136 ext. 1340 or <http://sad44.maineadulted.org>.

Thursday, Jan. 28

SeniorsPlus Long Distance Learning Program; 1 to 2:30 p.m., West Paris Library. Hear Maine Author Kendall Morse speak on his book, "Father Fell Down the Well." Free with preregistration - call 1-800-427-1241.

Friday, Jan. 29

Andover Rec Committee Craft and Movie Night; 6 p.m., Andover Elementary School. Come learn how to make six pack snowflakes while your children enjoy a movie and popcorn. Movie title TBD.

Feb. 4 and 11

CPR Certification; 6 to 9 p.m., Bethel Family Health Center. This class will teach adult, child & infant CPR, and obstructed airway. 2 year certificate. Limit 6 students. Instructor: Jeannine Thornton. Tuition: \$55. FMI: 824-2316 ext. 1340 or <http://sad44.maineadulted.org>.

Mahoosuc Land Trust events

The Mahoosuc Land Trust's 2016 speaker series, "Into the Woods," will feature people in this area who spend significant time in the woods around us, whether for work or pleasure. Initiating this series will be a presentation on the routes we take into the forests: our trails. Ryder Scott, Director of 4-H Learning Camps, and Gabe Perkins, Executive Director of Mahoosuc Pathways, will share the process of creating and maintaining safe and beautiful trails. They will lift up the work of the Oxford County Conservation Corps, a program that engages high school students in the area in leadership and trail stewardship skills.

Their presentation will be Wednesday, Jan. 20 at 7 p.m. at McLaughlin Auditorium at Gould Academy. All in the area are invited to attend.

JAN. 23 HIKE

The Land Trust invites outdoor enthusiasts to a Howard Pond Overlook Hike on Saturday, Jan. 23. The hike is gradual, with a brief steep section at the end. The reward will be views of Howard Pond, the Mahoosuc Range and the Presidentials, as well as a fire for warming, marshmallows to roast and hot chocolate.

Please meet at the Hanover Town Hall on Route 2 at 1 p.m. to carpool to the beginning of the hike. If there is good snow cover, snowshoes will be needed; otherwise, please bring footwear with winter hiking traction, such as stableicers. Dress warmly and carry water.

Reading with Richard Blanco

By Matthew Daigle
Sun Media

The Western Mountains Senior College will sponsor a Q&A session and reading with author and poet Richard Blanco from 4:30 to 6 p.m. Tuesday, Jan. 12, in the McLaughlin Auditorium at Gould Academy.

The reading will be held as part of Down Home Maine, a program run by the Western Mountains Senior College.

According to a news release by Down Home Maine, Blanco will speak about what it means to be Cuban, what it means to be American and "how he strives to mend the two halves of himself."

Blanco, of Bethel, was

named the inaugural poet for President Barack Obama's second inauguration in 2013.

The group suggested that people read Blanco's poem "Matters of the Sea/Cosas del mar: A Poem Commemorating a New Era in US-Cuba Relations." It is available at Books 'N Things on Main Street in Norway and at the Bethel Library on Broad Street. Copies of the book will also be available for purchase at the event.

The reading is free and open to the public.

For more information, call 207-890-4812 or email amy.w.chapman@gmail.com.

The snow date is the same time the next day, Jan. 13.

Sports

Middle School Boys' Varsity Basketball

Telstar 45, Buckfield 23; Jan. 4 - Telstar's Finn McLaughlin led scoring with 15 points, Devin Mason added 10 points, Devin Cole-Mason had 8 points, and Russell Haines and Tyler Hill had 4 each. Balanced scoring and good rebounding by the whole team were keys to the win.

Middle School Girls' Varsity Basketball

Telstar 27, Buckfield 16; Jan. 4-Telstar scorers: Luci Rothwell and Aneah Bartlett with 7 each; Caroline Newell and Ella Kellogg with 4 each; Calla Orino with 3 and Lydia Bennett and Bella DeVivo with 1 each.

Mountain Valley Rec Basketball League

The start of 2016 proved beneficial for Bethel as they notched their first win of the year, after some close games early on. They beat M and M Carpentry 79-69. Bethel (1-2) used team defense and balanced scoring to overtake their counterparts in the second half after a very close game throughout. The victors were led by Kevin Bean with 22 points, Ryan Kimball 16, Ryan Savage and JT Taylor with 14 and Dom Haines with 10 points. M and M (2-2) got 23 from Matt Zetts, 15 from Matt Newell and 14 from newcomer Wayne Campbell.

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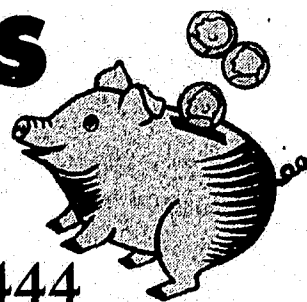
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Obituaries



RICHARD B. JOHNSTON

Richard Brown Johnston, aged 86, passed away on Dec. 1, 2015 at home in Spanaway, Wash. with his family around him. He was born July 15, 1929 in Portland, the son of Velma May Brown Johnston and David James Ernest Johnston. Dick attended Cape Elizabeth schools and graduated from Watertown High School in Massachusetts in the class of 1946. He is survived by his wife of 66 years, Polly Ann (Hewey) Johnston who he met in 1942 at Cape Elizabeth and married in Eatontown, N.J. on Jan. 21, 1949.

During the war (WWII), and before joining the Army, Dick worked as a deck hand on a steam trawler on the Grand Banks, unbeknownst to his parents. He also worked with his friend Jim Smith lobster fishing out of Willard Beach, South Portland. He was a messenger, carrying messages to the Fire Department and Police and an Air Raid warden in case communications were out. Dick told many stories of old Portland, of the sea, Casco Bay and lobster boats, which fascinated his family and friends. An avid reader, he adored reading to his grandchildren and great-grandchildren.

He enjoyed his yearly jaunts to Alaska in summer and winter. He traveled above the Arctic Circle to Jim River camp, Coldfoot and Deadhorse on the Dalton Highway, visiting with his daughter Julie's family. He drove up to North Pole, Alaska many times, getting up in the middle of the night to

enjoy the display of Northern Lights, the Aurora Borealis.

Dick loved photography all his life and took amazing pictures around the world, most of the time developing his own film. Art was also a pleasure for him, pen and ink sketches, some can be seen at the Andover Historical Society. He loved creating floats for the Andover Old Home Days Parade including a small Lovejoy Covered Bridge, used to advertise to Bicentennial of Andover Maine in 1976 and which was in the parade again forty years later in 2015. Dick also loved what he used to call "tink-a-ring" on projects. One fall there was a tornado that took out a huge red pine in the yard. He had it taken to the Farrington sawmill in East Andover and when they delivered the wood, he built a large two car garage with a sleep over area for the grandkids upstairs. The ultimate handyman, he did phone lines, electrical, plumbing and construction.

Dick loved square dancing and was the president of the Mollockt Mixers in Rumford and a member of the Graham Mixers in Washington. He drove to Oklahoma for the National Convention in 1978. Dick was instrumental in the editing of the Andover book "Andover, The First 75 Years" and contributed artwork. He assisted with Polly's book, "Once Upon a Memory, Growing Up At Bosebuck," by writing his story to be added. His artwork can be found in "Glimpses of Olde Andover" as well.

In 1972 moved his family to Polly's grandfather's (John K. Hewey) home in Andover, where he worked for the Andover Wood Products and the Post Offices in both Andover and East Andover.

A retired Army veteran of three wars, Dick spent his career in the communications field including long-lines work in Korea, the Formosa Straits Crisis

which included communications for President Eisenhower in Taipei, the Berlin Wall and the Cuban Missile Crisis. He was stationed all over the world including the Philippines, Japan, Taiwan, France and Germany, retiring from USMA West Point as an instructor. After retiring he moved his family to Nashua, New Hampshire and worked for Sanders Associates, where he had the opportunity to work on a communications filter used on the Apollo moon shot.

Dick and Polly moved to Spanaway, Wash. in 1986 to be closer to their daughters' families in Washington and in Alaska.

He was a member and Deacon at the Andover Congregational Church and served on the Pulpit Committee in Andover. He also attended Spanaway United Methodist Church in Spanaway Washington.

A well-read man who enjoyed lively discussions about world history, science and the mysteries of the world.

We shall all miss him dearly.

He is also survived by his children Melanie Jo Kerschner and her husband Dennis of Spanaway, Wash., Julie Maenette Merrill and her husband John of Andover and Joye Karlene Reier of Spanaway Wash.; grandchildren Trudi Lorraine Shaw and husband Scott, Peter Johnston Kerschner, Robin M. Kerschner and wife Wendy, all of Washington; Jonathan Lucas Merrill, Aimee Karlene Romig and husband Bill of North Pole, Alaska, Jared Logan Merrill and wife Lydia of Hubbard Ore., Emily Elizabeth McBride and husband Daniel of North Pole, Alaska; 13 great grandchildren Alex, Corianne, Sam, Liam, Logan, Brandon, Ayden, Abigail, Hailee, Billy, Elijah, Amelia and Tiberius; a cousin Jeff Brown of Boothbay Harbor; niece Candy Johnston of Massachusetts; nieces and nephews Lisa Roelofs and husband Henk of Michigan, Theodore Berry and wife Debbie of Colorado, Jola Berry and husband Michael of Colorado, Miki Berry Caspillo and husband Tom of Wyoming and many great and great-nieces and nephews.

He was predeceased by his parents, brother William Johnston and sister Jane Leonard.

Music Without Borders presents Encore Recital

Mark Demidovich, an alumnus of several seasons of the summertime Music without Borders International Piano Festival at Gould Academy, will appear on campus for an Encore Recital at 7:30 p.m. on Friday, Jan. 8, 2016 in Trustees Auditorium of McLaughlin Science Center. The program is free and open to the general public and will include works by Bach, Beethoven, and Rachmaninov.

A native of Kostroma, Russia, Demidovich graduated from the Saratov State Conservatory in 2011, then came to study for his artist diploma with Tamara Poddubnaya, artistic director of the summertime piano festival and professor of piano at the Long Island Conservatory.

Prize winner at several competitions, including the Maria Yudina International Competition, St. Petersburg, where he met Prof. Poddubnaya, and the "Hopes, Talents, Masters" Competition in Dobrich-Albena, Bulgaria, he won the Grand Prix at the Stockholm International Competition in 2010. Upon winning the Grand Prix of the LISMA Foundation International Competition in 2011, he received a full scholarship to the Long Island Conservatory, where he now teaches in the Piano Department.

He has performed solo recitals and appeared as guest soloist with orchestras in Russia and the United States. He lives in the Greater New York area, where, in addition to his conservatory duties, he keeps a busy private studio.

Soon to hold its 10th summer season at Gould, the four-week Music without Borders piano festival brings together some of the most promising young artists from Europe and the United States for intensive study with Prof. Poddubnaya, taking advantage of the school's exceptional practice and performance facilities and the warm welcome of Bethel-area residents and visitors during the several free public recitals held each week.

Age-Friendly Community news

Livability Factor No. 4: Social Participation, Studies show that people who socialize regularly live longer. We will be elaborating on opportunities in the Bethel area. If you have ideas, you may contact Jackie Cressy (rivendel@megalink.net, 824-0508).

Here are several opportunities coming right up. The Gem Theater (formerly Casablanca) is enjoying a new resurgence and developing plans for interesting programming in the future. Here's your chance to suggest movies you might enjoy in the company of friends. FMI look on Facebook or Team Bethel or contact Beth Weisberger at (347) 628-4290.

The Western Mountains Senior College begins the winter term this week. If you are a member - or wish to become one - there are six classes, ranging from the more academic, like "Reading Middle English," to the creative hands-on, like "Drawing and Painting." There are also fascinating offerings open to the public with no charge: "Cuba Past, Present and Future," presented by Inaugural Poet, Richard Blanco; a Brown Bag Lunch, "Playing the 60s," and To Your Health, "Atrial Fibrillation." For information on these opportunities, you may visit the blog (<http://wmscollege.blogspot.com>) or contact Nancy Davis (nancydavis.bethel@gmail.com, 381-1110).

The SAD 44 Adult and Community Ed. Program will be offering a host of classes, including "Understanding Health Care Vocabulary" offered by local nurse Haley Tripp, with a reduced tuition of \$10 for seniors. Other classes, like "Woodworking," cover a wide variety of interests. You may get more information on the Senior College blog (noted above) or by calling the Adult Ed. office at 824-2136, ext. 1340.

We hope you'll attend the Age-Friendly Community public meeting on Thursday, Jan. 14, from 4 to 6 p.m. at the West Parish Congregational Church, where there will be a discussion of the results of the survey disseminated in October, as well as suggestions for future projects.

Bethel Historical Society news

Exhibit areas closed through May

To allow time for staff to install new exhibits and to relocate stored materials to the new Huntton Center at the Robinson House, the display areas at the Bethel Historical Society will be closed to the public from January through May 2016. However, the Research Library,

Museum Shop and main office will remain open by appointment during this time (207-824-2908; info@bethelhistorical.org).

Regularly scheduled events will also continue: March 26, Women's History Month program in collaboration with the Ski Museum of Maine; April 28, the Bethel Antiquarian Supper; and May 31, the official observance of the Society's 50th Anniversary!

Exciting things are happening this winter at the society, so please stay tuned for updates and details.

50th Anniversary Annual Fund update

The Society is pleased to announce that it has reached its "50th Anniversary Annual Fund Campaign" goal, assuring that our doors will stay open and educational programs will continue throughout 2016.

Special thanks are extended to the "Golden Anniversary Donors" who have made new gifts or increased their previous year's support by \$50 or more.

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A special Thank You

to Judy and Norma for the care you gave me. I couldn't have made it without your help. To Dr. Nguyen and her staff. Irene for driving me to doctor's appts., daily errands, and taking care of things at home. Thank God for family and friends!
God Bless ~ Evelyn

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